In the claims:

1-18. (Canceled)

19. (New) A software tool operating on a computer appliance for versioning and Configuration Management of models in a computing system comprising;

a modeling means in which associations are augmented with the notion of ownership;

a component means for containing objects associations and properties; said component means having a mechanism for versioning;

the component further having means to create a tree of component versions; with further means to support change isolation; and

a configuration as a unit for assembling component versions providing a binding context for associations between objects contained in the assembled component versions; the configuration having means to interpret the semantics of association ownership to determine the completeness and compatibility of assembled component versions.

20. (New) The software tool of claim 19, wherein the version mechanism of the component is flexible to permit a user to include a plurality of objects as determined by the user.

21. (New) The software tool of claim 19, wherein configuration includes means to track configuration evolution history.

22. (New) The software tool of claim 19, in which a facility is provided to track component version evolution history.

23. (New) The software tool of claim 19, having means to support a plurality of

models and meta models.

24. (New) A method for versioning and Configuration Management of models in a computing system comprising the steps of;

(a) providing modeling means for augmenting associations with the notion of ownership;

(b) providing a component means for containing objects associations and properties; said component means having a mechanism for versioning;

(c) creating a tree of component versions further having means to support change isolation;

(d) providing a configuration as a unit for assembling component versions and providing a binding context for associations between objects contained in the assembled component versions; and

(e) interpreting the semantics of association ownership to determine the completeness and compatibility of assembled component versions.

25. (New) The method of claim 24, wherein the version mechanism of the component is flexible to permit a user to include a plurality of objects as determined by the user.

26. (New) The method of claim 24, wherein the configuration includes means to track configuration evolution history.

27. (New) The method of claim 24, in which a step is provided to track component version evolution history.

28. (New) The method of claim 24, having means in step (a) to support a plurality of models and meta models.